

Remarks

The Office Action mailed July 5, 2005 has been carefully reviewed and the following remarks have been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-29 and 31-39 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-29 and 31-39 are rejected. Claim 30 has been canceled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Claims 1, 7, 11, 17, and 21 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

The rejection of Claims 1-6, 31-33, 21-29, and 38-39 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, is respectfully traversed. Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 21. Claims 2-6 and 31-33 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 1, and Claims 22-29 and 38-39 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 21. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-6, 31-33, 21-29, and 38-39 contain subject matter which was described in the specification to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention, and request that the rejection of Claims 1-6, 31-33, 21-29, and 38-39 under Section 112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-6, 31-33, 21-29, and 38-39 under Section 112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-6, 31-33, 21-29, and 38-39 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully traversed. Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 21. Claims 2-6 and 31-33 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 1, and Claims 22-29 and 38-39 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 21. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-6, 31-33, 21-29, and 38-39 under Section 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-6, 31-33, 21-29, and 38-39 under Section 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-29 and 31-39 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Salas et al. (U.S. Patent 5,862,391) is respectfully traversed.

Salas et al. describe a software for monitoring and controlling selected aspects of power usage/consumption (column 11, lines 19-21). The software is loaded into a computer and includes a dynamic data exchange (DDE) server (152) (column 11, lines 22-23). The DDE server allows external programs to access power management data in a Microsoft Windows environment (column 11, lines 24-25). Configuration and control interface for the DDE server is provided through server application window menus (column 11, lines 28-30).

Claim 1 recites a method for adding devices to a power management control system, the method comprising the steps of “prompting a user to create a project; prompting the user to add devices to the project; executing a file to automatically configure the devices; generating screens for the devices added to the project; determining, by the power management control system, whether a dynamic data exchange (DDE) protocol is installed within the project; automatically updating a configuration of at least one of the devices and the screens; and restarting, by a computer, the project after at least one of adding, deleting and changing said devices.”

Salas et al. do not describe or suggest a method for adding devices as recited in Claim 1. Specifically, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest determining, by the power management control system, whether a dynamic data exchange (DDE) protocol is installed within the project. Rather, Salas et al. describe loading, a dynamic data exchange (DDE) server, into a computer. Salas et al. further describe allowing, by the DDE server, external programs to access power management data in a Microsoft Windows environment. Salas et al. describe providing, configuration and control interface for the DDE server, through server application window menus. Accordingly, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest determining, by the power management control system, whether a dynamic data exchange (DDE) protocol is installed. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Salas et al.

Claims 2-6 and 31-33 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-6 and 31-33 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that Claims 2-6 and 31-33 likewise are patentable over Salas et al.

Claim 7 recites a power control management system comprising “a control computer; at least one intelligent end device interfaced to said control computer for controlling and monitoring power; and a software package comprising a user interface, an applications layer, an operating system and a Power Builder for facilitating automated addition and configuration of user selected intelligent end devices to said power management control system, said Power Builder configured to build external applications onto a power management control project framework, automatically create points associated with said selected intelligent end devices, generate main menu screens for said selected intelligent end devices, restart a project to which said at least one intelligent end device is added after at least one of adding, deleting and changing said at least one intelligent end device, and install a dynamic data exchange (DDE) protocol within the project upon determining that the DDE protocol is not installed within the project, wherein said software package is configured to automatically update a configuration of at least one of said selected intelligent end devices, said points, and said screens.”

Salas et al. do not describe or suggest a power control management system as recited in Claim 7. Specifically, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest a Power Builder configured to install a dynamic data exchange (DDE) protocol within the project upon determining that the DDE protocol is not installed within the project. Rather, Salas et al. describe loading, a dynamic data exchange (DDE) server, into a computer. Salas et al. further describe allowing, by the DDE server, external programs to access power management data in a Microsoft Windows environment. Salas et al. describe providing, configuration and control interface for the DDE server, through server application window menus. Accordingly, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest a Power Builder configured to install a dynamic data exchange (DDE) protocol within the project upon determining that the DDE protocol is not installed. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 7 is submitted to be patentable over Salas et al.

Claims 8-16 and 34-35 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 7. When the recitations of Claims 8-16 and 34-35 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 7, Applicants submit that Claims 8-16 and 34-35 likewise are patentable over Salas et al.

Claim 17 recites a computer programmed to “prompt a user to create a project; prompt the user to select devices to be added to the project; configure the selected devices; generate screens for the selected devices; determine whether a dynamic data exchange (DDE) protocol is installed within the project; automatically update a configuration of at least one of the selected devices and the screens; and restart the project after at least one of adding, deleting and changing the selected devices.”

Salas et al. do not describe or suggest a computer as recited in Claim 17. Specifically, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest a computer programmed to determine whether a dynamic data exchange (DDE) protocol is installed within the project. Rather, Salas et al. describe, loading a dynamic data exchange (DDE) server, into a computer. Salas et al. further describe allowing, by the DDE server, external programs to access power management data in a Microsoft Windows environment. Salas et al. describe providing, configuration and control interface for the DDE server, through server application window menus. Accordingly, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest a computer programmed to determine whether a dynamic data exchange (DDE) protocol is installed. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 17 is submitted to be patentable over Salas et al.

Claims 18-20 and 36-37 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 17. When the recitations of Claims 18-20 and 36-37 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 17, Applicants submit that Claims 18-20 and 36-37 likewise are patentable over Salas et al.

Claim 21 recites a method for facilitating automated addition and configuration of user selected devices to a power management control system, the method comprising the steps of “building an external application onto a project framework, wherein said building comprises: automatically configuring components associated with devices; generating main menu screens for the devices; and

automatically updating a configuration of at least one of the components and the devices; restarting, by a computer, a project to which the devices are added after at least one of adding, deleting and changing the devices; and installing, by the power management control system, a dynamic data exchange (DDE) protocol within the project upon determining that the DDE protocol is not installed within the project.”

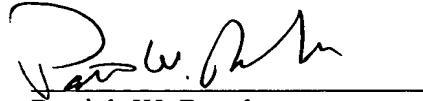
Salas et al. do not describe or suggest a method for facilitating automated addition and configuration of user selected devices as recited in Claim 21. Specifically, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest installing, by the power management control system, a dynamic data exchange (DDE) protocol within the project upon determining that the DDE protocol is not installed within the project. Rather, Salas et al. describe loading, a dynamic data exchange (DDE) server, into a computer. Salas et al. further describe allowing, by the DDE server, external programs to access power management data in a Microsoft Windows environment. Salas et al. describe providing, configuration and control interface for the DDE server, through server application window menus. Accordingly, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest installing, by the power management control system, a dynamic data exchange (DDE) protocol upon determining that the DDE protocol is not installed. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 21 is submitted to be patentable over Salas et al.

Claim 30 has been canceled. Claims 22-29 and 38-39 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 21. When the recitations of Claims 22-29 and 38-39 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 21, Applicants submit that Claims 22-29 and 38-39 likewise are patentable over Salas et al.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1-29 and 31-39 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



Patrick W. Rasche
Registration No. 37,916
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740
(314) 621-5070